

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Combine this with their decision not to air a Ted Koppel show which named the fallen heroes of the Iraq conflict because of their perceived harm that it might do to the current administration, and it seems Sinclair is in the business of promoting partisan politics.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. Let's not forget the owner and executives of Sinclair have donated mightily to the Republican Party, and it must be assumed the reason for these donations are for favorable legislation that helps their bottom line and the wealth of the ownership. The FCC should not allow licensing of broadcasting companies who are involved in partisan politics, and use my tax dollars to finance these bias reports under the guise of "news". Otherwise, the FCC should be required to define what "news" is in order for all stations to have an even playing field.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.